

Senate Resolution 1032

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Pearson of the 51st, Hamrick of the 30th, Smith of the 52nd and Hooks of the 14th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. James Gregory; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, for over 20 years, the unforgettable caricature of veteran comic James Gregory,
3 also known as "the funniest man in America," has stood grinning with his blue shirt
4 untucked, his arms outstretched, and a carefree welcome to a "down home," hilarious
5 storytelling experience; and

6 WHEREAS, his trademark caricature is the essence of James Gregory's comedy, a whimsical
7 reflection on life viewed from the front porch; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory tours 48 weeks a year, entertaining sold out crowds in theatres,
9 comedy clubs, fairs, festivals, and corporate gigs from Atlanta to Chicago and from Seattle
10 to New York City; and

11 WHEREAS, "The most famous comedian America has never heard of" entertains over 10
12 million people annually, including employees of the Coca Cola Company, the Kimberly
13 Clark Corporation, the Hewlett Packard Corporation, and the American Red Cross; and

14 WHEREAS, his grass roots following of tens of millions of loyal fans hear him weekly on
15 radio stations throughout the United States, and even without the help of the mainstream
16 media, he has become a world-class comedian; and

17 WHEREAS, he was born into a poor family in the rural town of Lithonia, Georgia, and
18 began working at age 11 at the local grocery store, using his earnings to help support his
19 family; and

20 WHEREAS, he became a salesman, but his real persuasiveness was as a storyteller, and he
21 states that it was an accident he ended up in comedy; and

1 WHEREAS, it was in 1982 that his friends convinced him to do an open mic night at the
2 Punchline, an Atlanta comedy club, where he was an instant hit; and

3 WHEREAS, he does what he calls "front porch humor," telling stories we all know, wherever
4 we are from, and making fun of crazy family members and covered dishes at funerals; and

5 WHEREAS, he pokes fun at everyone from health fanatics to animal rights activists, and his
6 fans flock to hear him in droves; and

7 WHEREAS, his success, like his comedy, has been initiated by the values he grew up with;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the absence of vulgarity or profanity in his sold out shows sets him apart from
10 other comedians, and his stories are a carefully crafted art; and

11 WHEREAS, he has said that his comedy is based on his own experience, and he wants to
12 make the whole world laugh.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
14 recognize Mr. James Gregory and commend him for his efforts to entertain people by making
15 them laugh.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
17 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. James Gregory.